

Animas River from the Northern Border of New Mexico to the Navajo Nation

Surface water samples were collected on Friday, August 7, 2015, at four (4) locations prior to arrival of the plume along the Animas and San Juan Rivers in New Mexico. On Saturday, August 8, 2015, nine (9) locations were sampled after arrival of the plume. Additional surface water samples were collected on Sunday, August 9, 2015 through Tuesday, August 11, 2015 at nine (9) locations each day along the Animas and San Juan Rivers of New Mexico, respectively. Each surface water sample was analyzed for 24 metals including arsenic, cadmium, lead, and mercury. The surface water results collected on all five days indicate the concentration of metals in the river would not be expected to cause harm to aquatic life, livestock, crops or people using the river for recreational activities. EPA will continue to take additional surface water samples to document the change in the concentration of metals in the river. The concentration of metals in surface water appear to be returning toward pre-event conditions.